



Application No. 10/031,588
Amdt. Dated November 12, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 16, 2003
Docket No. 8014-1004

RECEIVED
NOV 19 2003
TC 1700

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An air filter comprising:
a first filter layer formed of a first filter paper
material having a predetermined density, said first filter layer
being impregnated with oil; and

a second filter layer provided on a downstream side of
said first filter layer so as to be independent from said first
filter layer, said second filter layer being formed of a second
filter paper material having a lower density than said
predetermined density of said first filter layer, said second
filter layer being impregnated over its entirety with an oil-
repellent agent composed of a lipophobic layer having an oil-
repellent property,

~~each of said first filter layer and said second filter~~
~~layer being formed of filter paper,~~

~~filter material of said first filter layer having a~~
~~higher density than filter material of said second filter layer,~~
and

~~said second filter layer being composed of said lipophobic layer over an entire thickness.~~

2. (original) The air filter as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

 said first filter layer and said second filter layer are combined integrally with each other.

3. (previously presented) The air filter as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising an additional layer.

4. (currently amended) The air filter as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

 said first filter layer has a pore size of from 70 µm ~~mm~~ to 120 µm ~~mm~~ and said second filter layer has a pore size of from 100 µm ~~mm~~ to 180 µm ~~mm~~.

5. (previously presented) The air filter as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

 said second filter layer has a downstream end, which is exposed.

6. (previously presented) The air filter as claimed in Claim 2, wherein:

 said second filter layer is subjected to an oil-repellent treatment and then said first filter layer and said second filter layer are combined integrally with each other.

7. (currently amended) The air filter as claimed in Claim 2, wherein:

 said first filter layer and second filter layer are combined integrally with each other; and then,

 said second filter layer is subjected to an oil-repellent treatment and said first filter layer is impregnated with oil.

8. (previously presented) The air filter as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising an additional layer.

9. (currently amended) The air filter as claimed in Claim 3, wherein:

 said first filter layer has a pore size of from 70 µm ~~mm~~ to 120 µm ~~mm~~ and said second filter layer has a pore size of from 100 µm ~~mm~~ to 180 µm ~~mm~~.

10. (previously presented) The air filter as claimed in Claim 3, wherein:

 said second filter layer is subjected to an oil-repellent treatment and then said first filter layer and said second filter layer are combined integrally with each other.

11. (currently amended) The air filter as claimed in Claim 3, wherein:

 said first filter layer and second filter layer are combined integrally with each other; and then,

 said second filter layer is subjected to an oil-repellent treatment and said first filter layer is impregnated with oil.

12. (new) A air filter, comprising:

 a first layer of a first filter paper impregnated with oil; and

 a second layer of a second filter paper placed in a downstream air direction adjacent the first layer,

 a density of the first filter paper being greater than a density of the second filter paper,

 the second layer formed as an oil-repellent lipophobic layer over an entire thickness of the second layer.

13. (new) The filter of claim 12, wherein,
a downstream face of the second layer is exposed to
air,

an upper, upstream face of the first layer oozes with
the oil.

14. (new) The filter of claim 12, wherein the second
layer is impregnated with a resin containing fluorine.

15. (new) The filter of claim 12, further comprising:
an adhesive layer binding the first layer with the
second layer with the first and second layers contacting one
another,

the adhesive layer penetrating a downstream side of the
first layer and an upstream side of the second layer.

16. (new) The filter of claim 15, wherein the adhesive
layer comprises one of an olefin material and a polyester
material.

17. (new) The filter of claim 12, wherein,
the first layer has a pore size of from 70 μm to 120 μm
and the second filter layer has a pore size of from 100 μm to 180
 μm .

18. (new) A air filter, comprising:
a first layer of a first filter paper impregnated with
oil;

a second layer of a second filter paper placed in a
downstream air direction contacting the first layer; and

a hot-melt adhesive layer binding the first layer with
the second layer, the adhesive layer penetrating a downstream
side of the first layer and an upstream side of the second layer,

a density of the first filter paper being greater than
a density of the second filter paper,

the second layer formed as an oil-repellent lipophobic
layer over an entire thickness of the second layer.

19. (new) The filter of claim 18, wherein the second
layer is impregnated with a resin containing fluorine.

20. (new) The filter of claim 18, wherein,
the first layer has a pore size of from 70 μm to 120 μm
and the second filter layer has a pore size of from 100 μm to 180
 μm .